

data allocated to a sub-structure element are allocated to at least one channel of said timeslot-oriented data format;

switching said data converted into said timeslot-oriented data format via a timeslot-oriented switching network module;

5 converting said timeslot-oriented data back into said packet-oriented data format; and

transmitting said data converted back into said packet-oriented data format via said packet-oriented data transmission link.

10 2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of transmitting data via said packet-oriented data transmission link ensues according to the asynchronous transfer mode data format.

15 3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

reserving a sub-structure element for a transmission of signaling information allocated to data transmitted via said packet-oriented data transmission link.

20 4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

receiving signaling information by said conversion unit;

communicating said received signaling information from said conversion unit to a control unit; and

25 converting said signaling information into switching-oriented control data for said timeslot-oriented switching network module.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

30 inserting filler cells for an adaptation of a transmission bit rate deriving due to an arrival and size of sub-structure elements to a transmission bit rate of a channel.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

inserting filler data into a sub-structure element for an adaptation of a transmission bit rate deriving due to an arrival and a size of sub-structure elements to a transmission bit rate of a channel.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:


transmitting, for each channel, information about a plurality of payload data communicated in a channel and information about a plurality of filler data communicated in said channel.

REMARKS

The present Amendment revises the specification and claims to conform to United States patent practice, before examination of the present PCT application in the United States National Examination Phase. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.125 (b), applicants have concurrently submitted a substitute specification, excluding the claims, and provided a marked-up copy. All of the changes are editorial and applicant believes no new matter is added thereby. The amendment of the claims is not intended to be a surrender of any of the subject matter of those claims.

Early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Submitted by,

 (Reg. No. 45,877)
Mark Bergner
Schiff Hardin & Waite
Patent Department
6600 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473
(312) 258-5779
Attorneys for Applicant